

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 H-02 NSC-05

SS-15 STR-04 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 AGRE-00 CU-02 OES-06

FEA-01 INT-05 /108 W

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R 230309Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3121

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 18257

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, RP, LY

SUBJECT: SECRETARY PATERNO ON MRS. MARCOS' VISIT TO LIBYA

1. IN CONVERSATION NOVEMBER 22 WITH ACTING E/C COUNSELOR, SECRETARY OF INDUSTRY VICENTE PATERNO WAS GUARDED ABOUT MRS. MARCOS' VISIT TO LIBYA AND REFUSED TO BE DRAWN OUT EXCEPT ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE OF WHICH HE WAS IN CHARGE. HE SAID THAT THE PHILIPPINES HOPES TO SELL SOME REFINED WHITE SUGAR AND SOME LUMBER TO LIBYA, BUT DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE ANY LIBYAN OIL BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH PRICE. THE LIBYANS REFUSED TO DISCUSS OIL PRICES AT ALL, INDICATING A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT ATTITUDE.

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2. PATERNO BELIEVED THAT THE BEST PROSPECTS LAY IN THE

EXPORT OF SKILLED FILIPINO WORKERS. HE ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE ABOUT 400,000 GASTARBEITERS OR FOREIGN WORKERS IN LIBYA. AS A MATTER OF FACT, MOST OF THE "LIBYANS" WHOM HE MET WERE EITHER EGYPTIANS OR TUNISIANS. IN CONCLUSION, HOWEVER, PATERNO ADMITTED UNDER HIS BREATH THAT BOTH THE ECONOMIC AND THE CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WERE "MEANINGLESS."

3. ASKED WHETHER THE LIBYANS WERE FRIENDLY OR UNFRIENDLY, PATERNO STRUGGLED FOR WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE FILIPINO EXPERIENCE. HE FINALLY SETTLED ON THE FACT THE THE LIBYANS WERE "TOUGH" IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

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